

That's why I began making these daily reports to the Senate on February 22, 1992. I wanted to make it a matter of daily record precisely the size of the Federal debt which as of yesterday, Wednesday, June 21, stood at \$4,898,068,854,045.71 or \$18,593.15 for every man, woman, and child in America.

THE RECALL OF THE CHINESE AMBASSADOR

Mr. PELL. Mr. President, I learned with regret last week that the People's Republic of China has recalled its ambassador to the United States, Li Daoyu, because of the visit of Taiwan President Lee Teng-hui. I am disappointed that the Chinese government has chosen this step as a form of protest over Lee's visit.

President Lee came to the United States on a private visit after he was invited to speak at his alma mater. He was granted a visa as a simple act of courtesy and his trip does not represent a change in our government's one-China policy. The United States believes strongly that notable speakers from around the world should be free to travel here to speak their views. I feel that Beijing's reaction to Lee's visit is both excessive and unproductive. Lee's visit was a small matter and should be seen as insignificant for overall Sino-United States relations.

There is a great reservoir of friendship between the peoples of China and the United States. I think of that friendship as an iceberg. Right now we may see problems at the tip, but underneath is a large, enduring solidness. I feel certain that sturdy base will help us outlast minor irritants to the relationship, such as this one. It is my deep wish that Beijing would simply agree to disagree with Washington on this matter, return Ambassador Li to his post quickly, and move on to the truly important matters we have between the two countries.

AMERICAN CENTER PLZEN

Mr. PELL. On May 6, 1995, I was honored to be part of the delegation headed by Ambassador Madeleine Albright and accompanied by Gen. Charles G. Boyd, commander in chief, U.S. European Command, to represent President Clinton at ceremonies marking the 50th anniversary of the liberation of Plzen in the Czech Republic.

Having served as a foreign service officer in Prague in 1946 after World War II, it was a particular personal honor to be present at such a warm outpouring of appreciation and gratitude shown by the people of the Czech Republic toward the gallant contributions made by the service men and women of Gen. George Patton's Third Army.

While in Plzen I was also honored to participate in the opening of American Center Plzen, with Prime Minister Klaus, the United States Ambassador to the Czech Republic, Adrian Basora,

Ambassador Albright, and General Boyd. The creation of the American Center in Plzen was the personal accomplishment of a U.S. Peace Corps volunteer from Barrington, RI, John R. Hess.

The Center is a tribute to the enthusiasm and commitment of John Hess and the citizens of Plzen. Significantly, it was completed without having to commit any U.S. tax dollars. I asked Mr. Hess if he would send me a report on the creation of American Center Plzen, so that his work could serve as an example to others reaching out to our neighbors around the world. I ask unanimous consent that his report on American Center Plzen be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the report was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

REPORT ON AMERICAN CENTER PLZEN

This is a report requested by U.S. Senator Claiborne Pell about my activities as a U.S. Peace Corps Volunteer in establishing American Center Plzen without use of American taxpayers money. Senator Pell was in Plzen at the time of the Center's opening.

The idea of having an American Center for American-Czech business and cultural exchange in Plzen began with then Deputy Mayor of Plzen, Zdenek Prosek when in 1993 he discussed the thought with the U.S. Ambassador, Foreign Commercial Service, USIS, and representatives of the Czech American Enterprise Fund (CAEF). All thought well of the concept. CAEF liked the plan because there would be business investment opportunities for them and the others because it could help to create U.S. and Czech business growth as well as expand U.S. and Czech cultural understanding. The purpose of the Center would offer something to both the United States and to Plzen. A Center would make it easier for U.S. businesses to establish themselves in Western Bohemia as investors and for export possibilities. It would also enhance and build upon the warm feelings held by the West Bohemian people toward the U.S. resulting from General Patton's liberation of this area in 1945. Plzen would benefit as the Center will open access to U.S. business for joint ventures and could obtain the balanced economy sought by city leaders. CAEF offered to donate the equivalent of \$35,000.00 as "seed money" for the project to cover any first year operating deficits. The United States Embassy clearly stated that no U.S. funds were available for the purpose of establishing the Center. Advisory assistance would be offered.

The city of Plzen made it known that it would bear all costs. Deputy Mayor Prosek (now Lord Mayor) told the Embassy and CAEF that the City would donate a historic building in the city center and would restore it at Plzen's expense. Plzen certainly did that spending the equivalent of \$1,250,000 on the renovation as well as donating the building. Mayor Prosek also stated that a Foundation would be created with a Czech Director to operate the Center under Czech law and would be self supporting. It was agreed among the parties that a Peace Corps Business Volunteer as a catalyst to ensure that the project would be designed and implemented in a manner to assure success would be assigned to Plzen.

As that volunteer I discussed with project planners and architects hired by the city the layout of the building to meet the purpose of the project. It was agreed among the project designers, the architects, and myself that

the building must be competitive for well into the 21st Century and must meet western standards. The building would have a social center, a meeting room for seminars, permanent offices, temporary offices for companies seeking partners, an information area, and a place for cultural displays. The building has over 100 communication outlets for phones, faxes, and computers. It is centrally air conditioned and handicap accessible. In addition, all offices have raised floors for ease of cabling. Ability to communicate was a major thrust and attention to computer, fax, and telephone access was a priority of the building infrastructure. The City also wanted the building completed in time for the 50 year Liberation Ceremony to take place in May 1995.

A working committee consisting of ten people was formed and met regularly to review plans. The committee assisted in hiring the Director for the Center as well as talking with the U.S. and Czech business communities about the Center. The makeup of the committee included five Czechs and five Americans. Four Czechs were from Plzen and one Czech and three Americans were from Prague.

Plans for the building were completed in June 1994 and were approved by the City. Building restoration began in September 1994 and was completed in late April 1995. The City paid all the expenses for the building. No U.S. taxpayer money was a part of the building renovations. The building is expected to be self sufficient financially by January 1997 through rental charges for offices, meetings, special services, etc.

The Foundation has been established and has two Boards, one advisory which includes American Chamber of Commerce in the Czech Republic, Peace Corps, an American Embassy person, and Chamber of Commerce Plzen. The voting Board is chaired by a Czech who is also Chair of the Business Innovation Center in Plzen. There are four Czechs and one American on the voting Board.

A few American and Czech companies have made donations of operating equipment such as fax machines and computers to the Center which are greatly appreciated.

A Peace Corps Business Volunteer will continue as an advisor to the Center until late January 1996. Peace Corps does not plan to assign another volunteer to this project after that date.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, am I correct that the Senate now turns to S. 440?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

NATIONAL HIGHWAY SYSTEM DESIGNATION ACT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume consideration of S. 440, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 440) to amend title 23, United States Code, to provide for the designation of the National Highway System, and for other purposes.

The Senate resumed consideration of the bill.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I see in the Chamber joining me the distinguished Senator from Rhode Island, the